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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. **INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 21 December 1948 25X1

SUBJECT Printing of Counterfeit Currencies
at Giesecke & Devrient, LeipzigNO. OF PAGES 2 PLACE
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(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF I **CIA LIBRARY**SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. It has long been reported that the well-known printing firm of Giesecke & Devrient in Leipzig has been engaged in the counterfeiting of foreign currencies on orders of the Soviets. It is known that this firm printed counterfeit monies for the use of German Intelligence during the war.
2. The plant was dismantled by the Russians and the best and most modern machines were removed and sent to Russia as reparations. A good share of the former personnel were taken out of the country as well. Some months later, plans were made by the Russians to resume the work of counterfeiting, and a section of the plant was engaged for this work. Several presses were returned from Russia, but most of the needed special equipment could not be located. Thus, crates containing parts of machines came back, but it was with the greatest difficulty that enough equipment was assembled to undertake engraving and printing of counterfeit currency.
3. Emphasis at the moment is given to reproducing United States Treasury notes in ten-dollar denomination, United States Military Payment Certificates in ten-dollar denomination, and English one-pound notes.
4. The currency counterfeit department now works with a staff of eight, consisting of four Germans and four Russians. The Germans are strictly guarded at work and outside. They provide the technical skill necessary for the work, while the Russians have the supervisory functions. Strict accounting is kept of all paper stocks and other supplies, as well as of finished notes and all waste.
5. The production goal for the four months beginning with October 1948 is as follows:

U.S. Treasury ten-dollar notes	100,000
U.S. ten-dollar MPC's	85,000
English one-pound notes	10,000

On 23 October 1948, the following quantities were finished and delivered:

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U.S. Treasury ten-dollar notes	10,000
U.S. ten-dollar MPC's	20,000

This was about twenty percent short of the planned delivery for that period, and the delivery was made two days later than anticipated.

6. Paper for the currency counterfeiting is made by a small firm in the Russian Zone which works exclusively for Giesecke & Devrient. The colors for the inks are reported to be an American product. The containers for these are handled only by the Russian members of the staff, who give out the colors to the German workmen in small vessels, as needed.
7. In other departments of the plant a variety of forged papers are being printed. These include identity cards, credentials, cargo waybills, automobile ownership certificates and drivers' permits used by the United States, England, France, The Netherlands, Sweden and the three Western Zones of Germany. The Netherlands' passports are now being made and are to bear visa stamps for the Dutch colonies. Credentials of authority for Western Sector Berlin police were completed recently.

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